II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-11.   (Previously Cancelled)

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) A postal security device, as described in ~~claim 12~~ claim 17, wherein said application specific integrated circuit is embodied in a PCMCIA card.

14.   (Currently Amended) A postal security device, as described in claim 17~~claim 12~~, wherein said non-volatile memory is not accessible and a further accessible memory is provided to store accounting, identification, and operational history data for a user.

15.   (Currently Amended) A postal security device, as described in claim 17~~claim 12~~, wherein said cryptographic algorithms generate a check sum representation of generated data to provide a unique digital signature which may be verified by a user.

16.   (Currently Amended) A postal security device, as described in claim 17~~claim 12~~, further comprising means for cooperative operation with a secure memory management unit in said host computer to isolate the cryptographic processor and prevent tampering with the generation of cryptographic keys.

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17. (New) A postal security device in the form of an application specific integrated circuit for providing cryptographic resources for a postal franking system comprising:

a processor for controlling the use and functions of said cryptographic resources;

a memory for securely storing data for use with said cryptographic resources;

a communications bus for communicating with a host computer to allow use of said cryptographic resources;

a timing circuit for sensing the amount of time the host computer is taking to complete a bus transaction, comparing said amount of time with a predetermined time, and generating a signal when said sensed time exceeds said predetermined time;

a memory controller for controlling access to said memory, said memory controller constructed to receive said signal and to terminate said bus transaction.

18. (New) A postal security device, as described in claim 17, further comprising a non-accessible self test processor to perform analysis for the purpose of verifying full functionality of the postal security device.

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